

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 VO-03

SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 H-02

INSE-00 DODE-00 IO-10 PM-03 SSO-00 (ISO) W
----- 019765

R 220824Z MAY 75
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5108
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 5686

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, VS, HK, CA
SUBJECT: SITREP--VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

REF: A) HONG KONG 5633; B) OTTAWA 6516

1. MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES - ON MAY 20, TWO ADDITIONAL REFUGEES WERE PERMITTED TO REMAIN LEGALLY IN HONG KONG AND 12 REFUGEES DEPARTED FOR FRANCE. THUS, THE TOTAL IN HK IMMIGRATION CAMPS IS NOW 3,736.

2. THE CANADIANS EXPECT 23 ADDITIONAL REFUGEES TO DEPART FOR CANADA MAY 23 AND ABOUT 40 MORE ON MAY 27. ACCORDING TO LOCAL CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICER, CANADIAN COMMISSION HAS USED VERY FEW OF THE 200 QUOTA NUMBERS ORIGINALLY ASSIGNED TO HONG KONG SINCE ALMOST ALL OF THOSE DEPARTING FOR CANADA TO DATE HAVE BEEN IMMEDIATE RELATIVES AND OUTSIDE THE QUOTA.

3. REFUGEES ON BOARD SHIPS - THE 35 REFUGEES ON BOARD THE S.S. EURYBATES DEPART HONG KONG TODAY FOR GUAM. THE MHER PANAMANIAN SHIP, THE GLORIOU COUNTRY, SAILED FRGRWHONG KONG EARLY THIS MORNING WITH THE SEVEN REFUGEES WHO HAD BEEN APPROVED TO ENTER CANADA STILL ON BOARD. THE CANADIANS ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO OFFLOAD THEM WHEN THE SHIP ARRIVES
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AT NAHA.

4. THE S.S. HAI PENG (REF A) HAS NOW DECIDED TO LAND AT KEELUNG AND WILL NOT BE COMING TO HONG KONG AS REPORTED.

5. INS PROCESSING OF REFUGEES - INS IS CONTINUING ITS PROCESSING. THE INS OFFICERS ARE NOW UTILIZING CRITERIA PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION IN INS 2464 OF MAY 21. THESE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAIN DEFINITIONS OF IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT RELATIVES WHICH ARE CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN IMPLEMENTATION. UNDER THESE STRINGENT DEFINITIONS, FAMILIES (MOST OF THE VIETNAMESE HERE ESCAPED IN LARGE FAMILY UNITS) WILL BE SEPARATED NEEDLESSLY.

6. AS A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE, A USN CHIEF PETTY OFFICER AND HIS VIETNAMESE WIFE HAVE COME TO HONG KONG TO ASSIST THE WIFE'S FAMILY. THE FAMILY, WHICH IS IN HK IMMIGRATION, CONSIST OF THE WIFE'S MOTHER, THREE SISTERS, ONE BROTHER, AND THREE NIECES AND NEPHEWS. UNDER THE INS INSTRUCTIONS, THE MOTHER, ONE SISTER AND BROTHER QUALIFY. THE OTHER TWO SISTERS DO NOT SINCE THEY ARE OVER 17 YEARS OF AGE. THUS, UNDER PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS, THIS FAMILY WOULD BE NEEDLESSLY SEPARATED.

7. IT IS IMPORTANT TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF THESE GUIDELINES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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